

## Jolt of Joy!

What includes all the colors of the rainbow and is hidden in plain sight?



Painted rocks placed in your neighborhood!

If you take a short walk around your neighborhood, chances are you will be more than likely to pass a hand painted rock decorating someone's front yard. A little jolt of joy to brighten your day.



These miniature masterpieces are the product of the current craze of rock painting. During the COVID-19 stay-at-home orders, rock painting has become a popular activity for children, teens and adults. This low cost means of creating yard art for passersby to encounter has become a trend in many neighborhoods, along popular walking paths, in parks and outside popular stores. It is such an inexpensive, simple way to make someone's day.

This happy little gem was spotted on March 21, 2020.



Many painted rocks provide an inspiring word, a phrase of encouragement, or a fun image just to make you smile. Hearts, ladybugs, hobbit doors, and congratulatory stones for those graduates who were unable to enjoy the rite of a graduation ceremony, may be found.



A really talented artist in the neighborhood has painted family pets on rocks for their owners.



An especially, fantastic find was a Pete the Cat pebble found here at the Loma Colorado Library. It even has glitter on it!



This special rock also included instructions to re-hide it, and it has been moved close to another local library. Some of these treasures are meant to be picked up as a source of motivation, as a lucky pebble in your pocket, or as a paperweight.

The appearance of these special little jewels is documented in articles in many newspapers telling stories about local rock artists and just how fun it is to come across a little surprise when you least expect it. One article mentions a “Rock Fairy” who has painted stones to resemble popular candy treats, and provided clues to find other painted candies in the neighborhood. This scavenger hunt ends with an actual treat for the rock hunter to enjoy. You got to love this!



Daily walks have become that much more enjoyable and have morphed into a treasure hunt to find these simple pleasures. So many people enjoy seeing these little yard ornaments, they are forming their own community groups on social media. There are posts with pictures of their discoveries at Rio Rancho Rocks, Corrales Rocks, AZ Painted Rocks and Painted Rocks, all on Facebook.





Scanning through the posts, you realize how many people appreciate these little treasures that spread a little kindness and make the day happier.



The next time you need a break or some exercise, consider taking a stroll around the neighborhood and take the time to find a jolt of joy.



Then when you are inspired, take a moment to create your own masterpiece for your neighbors to admire and enjoy. Here are some library books that can help you get creative: [Art on the Rocks](#), [Rock Art!](#), and [Painting More Animals on Rocks](#).